AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (currently amended) A method for conferring resistance or tolerance to a furovirus, potyvirus, tospovirus or cucomovirus upon a plant cell comprising the step of: introducing into a plant cell a sense RNA fragment of a furovirus, potyvirus, tospovirus or cucomovirus genome or portion thereof and an antisense RNA fragment of said furovirus, potyvirus, tospovirus or cucomovirus genome or portion thereof, wherein said sense RNA fragment and said antisense RNA fragment form a double-stranded RNA molecule, wherein the RNA fragments are at least 21 nucleotides in length, and wherein the expression of said viral genome or portion thereof in said cell is reduced, and said plant cell has resistance or tolerance to said furovirus, potyvirus, tospovirus or cucomovirus.

2-4. (canceled)

5. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said RNA fragments comprises a nucleotide sequence obtained ~~derived~~ from a viral coat protein gene, a viral nucleocapsid protein gene, a viral replicase gene, a movement protein gene or portions thereof.

6. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein said RNA fragments are comprised in two different RNA molecules.

7. (original) The method of claim 6, wherein said RNA fragments are mixed before being introduced into said cell.

8. (original) The method of claim 7, wherein said RNA fragments are mixed before being introduced into said cell under conditions allowing said RNA fragments to form a double-stranded RNA molecule.

9. (original) The method of claim 6, wherein said RNA fragments are introduced into said cell sequentially.

10. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein said RNA fragments are comprised in one RNA molecule.

11. (previously presented) The method of claim 10, wherein said RNA molecule folds such that said RNA fragments comprised therein form a double-stranded region.

12. (currently amended) A method for conferring resistance or tolerance to a furovirus, potyvirus, tospovirus or cucomovirus upon a plant cell comprising the step of: introducing into a plant cell a first DNA sequence encoding ~~capable of expressing in said cell~~ a sense RNA fragment of a furovirus, potyvirus, tospovirus or cucomovirus genome or portion thereof and a second DNA sequence encoding ~~capable of expressing in said cell~~ an antisense RNA fragment of said furovirus, potyvirus or cucomovirus genome or portion thereof, wherein said sense RNA fragment and said antisense RNA fragment form a double-stranded RNA molecule when expressed in a plant cell, wherein the fragments of RNA are at least 21 nucleotides in length and wherein the expression of said viral genome or portion thereof in said cell is reduced, and wherein said plant cell has resistance or tolerance to said furovirus, potyvirus, tospovirus or cucomovirus.

13-15. (canceled)

16. (previously presented) The method of claim 12, wherein said DNA sequences comprises a nucleotide sequence obtained ~~derived~~ from a viral coat protein gene, a viral nucleocapsid protein gene, a viral replicase gene, a movement protein gene or portions thereof.

17. (original) The method of claim 12, wherein said first DNA sequence and said second DNA sequence are stably integrated in the genome of said cell.

18. (original) The method of claim 12, wherein said first DNA sequence and said second DNA sequence are comprised in two different DNA molecules.

19. (original) The method of claim 18, wherein said DNA molecules further comprise a first promoter operably linked to said first DNA sequence and a second promoter operably linked to said second DNA sequence.

20. (original) The method of claim 12, wherein said first DNA sequence and said second DNA sequence are comprised in one DNA molecule.

21. (original) The method of claim 20, wherein said first DNA sequence and said second DNA sequence are comprised in the same DNA strand of said DNA molecule.

22. (original) The method of claim 21, wherein said sense RNA fragment and said antisense RNA fragment are comprised in one RNA molecule.

23. (original) The method of claim 22, wherein said RNA molecule is capable of folding such that said RNA fragments comprised therein form a double-stranded region.

24. (original) The method of claim 22, wherein said DNA molecule further comprises a promoter operably linked to said first or said second DNA sequence.

25. (original) The method of claim 24, wherein said promoter is a heterologous promoter.

26. (original) The method of claim 24, wherein said promoter is a tissue-specific promoter.

27. (original) The method of claim 24, wherein said promoter is a developmentally regulated promoter.

28. (original) The method of claim 24, wherein said promoter is a constitutive promoter.

29. (original) The method of claim 24, wherein said promoter is an inducible promoter.

30. (original) The method of claim 22, wherein said DNA molecule further comprises a linker between the DNA sequences encoding said sense RNA fragment and said antisense RNA fragments.

31-33. (canceled)

34. (previously presented) The method of claim 30, wherein the linker comprises intron processing signals.

35. (original) The method of claim 21, wherein said sense RNA fragment and said antisense RNA fragment are comprised in two RNA molecules.

36. (original) The method of claim 35, wherein said first DNA sequence is operably linked to a first promoter and said second DNA sequence is operably linked to a second promoter.

37. (original) The method of claim 35, wherein said first DNA sequence and said second DNA sequence are operably linked to a bi-directional promoter.

38. (original) The method of claim 21, wherein said first DNA sequence and said second DNA sequence are comprised in complementary strands of said DNA molecule.

39. (original) The method of claim 38, wherein said first DNA sequence is the complementary DNA strand of said second DNA sequence in said DNA molecule.

40. (original) The method of claim 39, wherein said DNA molecule further comprises a first promoter operably linked to said first DNA sequence.

41-46. (canceled)

47. (previously presented) The cell of claim 46, wherein said cell is virus resistant or tolerant.

48. (canceled)

49. (previously presented) A plant comprising the plant cell of claim 47, wherein the plant is virus resistant or tolerant to said furovirus, potyvirus, tospovirus or cucomovirus.

50-55. (canceled)

56. (currently amended) A plant ~~and the progeny thereof~~ regenerated ~~derived~~ from the plant cell of claim 60, wherein the plant is resistant or tolerant to said furovirus, potyvirus, tospovirus or cucomovirus.

57. (canceled)

58. (currently amended) Seeds regenerated ~~derived~~ from the plant of claim 56, wherein said seeds are resistant or tolerant to said furovirus, potyvirus, topsovirus or cucomovirus.

59-61. (canceled)

62. (previously presented) A cell produced by the method ~~comprising the two RNA sequences~~ of claim 8, wherein said cell further comprises a sense RNA fragment and an antisense RNA fragment of said viral genome or portion thereof, and wherein said cell is resistant or tolerant to said furovirus, potyvirus, topsovirus or cucomovirus.

63-72. (canceled)

73. (previously presented) The plant cell of claim 76, wherein the expression of said viral genome or portion thereof in said cell is reduced, and wherein said DNA sequences are expressed, and wherein said cell is resistant or tolerant to said furovirus, potyvirus, topsovirus, or cucomovirus.

74-75. (canceled)

76. (currently amended) A plant cell obtained by the method of claim 12, wherein said cell is resistant or tolerant to said furovirus, potyvirus, topsovirus or cucomovirus.

77. (currently amended) The method of claim 12, wherein said DNA sequences comprises a nucleotide sequence obtained ~~derived~~ from a furovirus replicase gene or portion thereof.

78. (currently amended) The method of claim 12, wherein said DNA sequences comprises a nucleotide sequence obtained ~~derived~~ from the beet necrotic yellow vein virus (BNYVV).

79. (currently amended) The method of claim 78, wherein said DNA sequences comprises a nucleotide sequence obtained ~~derived~~ from the replicase gene (RNA1) of the beet necrotic yellow vein virus or portion thereof.

80. (previously presented) The method of claim 79, wherein the portion of the replicase gene from BNYVV comprises the 3' end.

81. (currently amended) The method of claim 80, wherein the portion of the replicase gene from BNYVV is about ~~400~~ 450 nucleotides.

82. (currently amended) The method of claim 81, wherein the portion of the replicase gene from BNYVV is from ~~about~~ nucleotide ~~5178~~ 5168 to ~~about~~ nucleotide 5620.

83. (currently amended) The method of claim 12, wherein said DNA sequences comprises a nucleotide sequence obtained ~~derived~~ from a potyvirus or portion thereof.

84. (currently amended) The method of claim 12, wherein said DNA sequences comprises a nucleotide sequence obtained ~~derived~~ from a tospovirus or portion thereof.

85. (currently amended) The method of claim 12, wherein said DNA sequences comprises a nucleotide sequence obtained ~~derived~~ from a cucomovirus or portion thereof.

86. (new) Progeny obtained from the plant of claim 56, wherein said progeny are resistant or tolerant to said furovirus, potyvirus, tospovirus or cucomovirus.